

ASSUMPTIONS FOR HERMENEUTICS - 25/02/2006

1. Is a text closed or open?

closed - fixed meaning

open - free meaning

Answer. It is open - analogy, prophecy, typology, re-interpretation

The text speaks today on itself, is living.

2. Is the Bible contingent or independent, conditioned or unconditioned, under rule or sovereign?

Answer. It is independent - Not dependent on even the author's intention.

It is sovereign, as word of the Spirit; thus, not subject to private interpretation but only as revealed (self-revealing). It is searched, it proclaims itself afresh, anew (illumination).

3. Is the Bible spacio-temporal or transcendental?

Answer. It is transcendent - the WORD INSCRIBED.

Thus, "The Scriptures foreseeing..." (Gal. 3).

4. Is the Bible inerrant? Yes.

Are the accounts true? Yes.

Are the dialogues true? Yes. (Job?)

Truth = essential meaning (not verbatim)

e.g. Jesus spoke Aramaic

Into Greek not literal translation but essential transference of meaning.